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PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Register Book Publishing House. 1907. Pp. vi, 214, 164.

In addition to the usual record of the proceedings of a bar association meeting, this Report contains an illuminating discussion of the problem of particular interest in the Central and Western States of the best method of securing fair and impartial service and equitable rates from the railroads. The principal paper on this subject, presented by James H. Wilkerson, Esq., contains a review of the history of federal railroad regulation. In reply thereto Blewett Lee, Esq., delivered an informal address, which in cogent and concise language, summarized the damages which would be imposed upon the railroads by the passage of unconsidered and unwise rate laws, reciprocal demurrage statutes, etc. The financial history of the last six months clearly proves that the prophecy of Mr. Lee was grounded on a solid foundation.

Another interesting and suggestive address is by Edward M. Shepard, Esq., of New York, entitled "Corporate Capitalization and Public Morals." This contains various novel proposals, notably the elimination of the present practice of expressing the value of shares of stock in dollars, which were widely commented on in the general press some months ago. Other papers presented include "Pure Food Laws," by Alfred H. Jones, Esq.; "Some Aspects of the Federal Food and Drug Act," by Frank F. Reed, Esq., and an historical essay on "The Lincoln-Douglas Debates," by Hon. Clark E. Carr.

R. D. J.

COMMENTARIES ON THE LAW OF CONTRACTS. By JOEL PRENTISS BISHOP, LL. D. Second Edition, revised and enlarged by Marion C. Early. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Company, 1907. Pp. xxii, 829.

There have been few legal text-book writers of modern times who have stamped their personality upon the law as has Joel Prentiss Bishop. To him we owe a clear conception of the legal nature of the marriage relation. On reading any of his works we are struck by the freshness and originality of his views, without in the slightest feeling that we are reading an author's opinion instead of the law. We are compelled con-

tinually to wonder at the ability which expresses so much in such small compass, and yet never lacks clearness.

The work on contracts by this author is one of his best and has stood the test of time so well that it would be superfluous to say anything about the original edition. The new edition follows the original closely. Some few changes have been made here and there in the text where recent developments of the law have modified the rule as there laid down. The development of contract law has been mainly in relation to illegal contracts, contracts in restraint of trade, and contracts against public policy. It is in these departments that the main additions to the text have been made. The chief work of the reviser has been in amplifying the notes and bringing them down to date. In this process almost four thousand new cases have been added. The book is made more generally available by references to the reports in common use, such as the Trinity Series, Lawyers' Reports Annotated and the National Reporter System.

S. B. S.

ANNOTATED CASES ON THE LAW OF SURETYSHIP. Selected and annotated by ARTHUR ADELBERT STEARNS. Cincinnati: The W. H. Anderson Co. 1907. Pp. xvii, 688.

The well-known increase in the use of surety bonds to protect the actors in almost every important transaction of the present day business world, which has resulted in a large measure from the development through corporate enterprise of a well recognized system of furnishing such security, has given a new importance to this branch of the law. A natural outcome is the production of a case book, designed for the use of students, devoted exclusively to the law of suretyship. The cases in Dr. Stearn's volume, which is based on the well established plan of such a book, have been well selected. Their grouping, under clearly defined headings, aids in giving to the reader a comprehensive view of the natural divisions of the subject, *e. g.*, Commercial Guarantees, Judicial Bonds, Bonds of Public Officers, etc. It may be thought that such headings as these suggest an empirical rather than a scientific treatment of the basic principles involved, but a more extended examination of the volume dispels this first impression. The notes added by the author to each section not only tend to serve as brief digests of the point illustrated by the principal case, but also to stimulate the student to further investigation of the authorities. The